

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

RAILWAY
children
No child lost to the streets



In many communities, mothers work tirelessly to provide a better future for their children. Despite facing numerous challenges and having limited resources, they dedicate themselves to their families, often without recognizing their worth. They rarely take time for themselves or acknowledge their invaluable contributions to society and their households.

To honour these incredible women, Railway Children India (RCI) celebrated Women's Day with 23 mothers from the community, accompanied by six inspiring young girls, known as the 'Power Girls.' The event was designed to recognize their efforts, uplift their spirits, and remind them of their importance.

A CELEBRATION OF STRENGTH AND RECOGNITION

The celebration began with a heartfelt welcome speech by Ms. Tawakkul Khan, Program Officer, who warmly greeted everyone and set the tone for the event. Her words highlighted the importance of acknowledging and appreciating the vital role women play in their families and society.

Following this, Ms. Nida Siddique, Safeguarding Manager, delivered an empowering speech on women's strength and significance, emphasizing their crucial roles as mothers, wives, and individuals. The speech resonated deeply, helping the women realize their immense contributions to their families and communities.





A POWERFUL ACTIVITY: RECOGNIZING INVISIBLE LABOUR

Training Officer Ms. Aisha Shameen led an insightful activity highlighting the often-overlooked labour women perform daily. Participants placed pictures around a woman's portrait, representing the numerous tasks they handle—household chores, caregiving, and other responsibilities that frequently go unnoticed. Through this visual exercise, the women gained a new perspective on their relentless efforts and understood their indispensable role in maintaining their families. This realization fostered a sense of pride and acknowledgment of their selfless dedication.

LAUGHTER, JOY, AND CHILDHOOD REVISITED

Adding an element of fun, a game of musical chairs brought waves of laughter and excitement. The women enthusiastically participated, expressing how much they enjoyed the moment. Many shared that it had been years since they last played such a game, and the experience brought back cherished childhood memories. The activity allowed them to embrace joy and reconnect with their playful side, free from daily burdens.

To ensure the mothers could fully engage in the festivities, a special children's corner was set up. While their little ones busied themselves with drawing and colouring, the women were able to relax, enjoy, and immerse themselves in the celebration without worry.

A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE AND UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

As the event drew to a close, RCI honoured the women and Power Girls with gifts and certificates, symbolizing their value and contribution to society. The recognition was deeply moving, as many women expressed that they had never felt so respected and appreciated before.

A particularly touching moment came from a 65-year-old woman who shared, **“In 65 years, this is the first time I have received so much respect.”**

When asked about their favourite part of the celebration, many women mentioned the musical chairs game and the respect they felt throughout the event. Some admitted they were initially hesitant to attend, but by the end of the day, they were grateful for the experience and overwhelmed with happiness.

One participant shared, **“We feel truly happy today. We had become so accustomed to household work every day that we forgot what joy felt like.”**





A DAY TO REMEMBER

For many, this celebration was one of the most memorable and significant days of their lives. They thanked Railway Children India for recognizing their worth, providing them with a platform to express themselves, and for continuously striving to ensure their children's safety and well-being. The event not only celebrated Women's Day but also instilled a renewed sense of confidence, dignity, and hope in these remarkable women.

Through this initiative, RCI reaffirmed its commitment to uplifting and empowering women, reminding them that they are seen, valued, and appreciated—not just on Women's Day, but every day.



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